

Customer No. 26308

**PATENT**Docket No. 1031.16081-CON**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Blumenthal et al. Group Art Unit: 2857  
 Serial No.: 10/606,009 Examiner: Wachsman  
 Filed: 25 June 2003  
 For: Systems and Methods for Controlling the Activity of Carbon in Heat Treating Atmospheres

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITHIN  
 THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION  
 (37 CFR 1.97(b))**

**NOTE:** "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed: (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in S 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last." 37 CFR 1.97(b).

**NOTE:** The "filing date of a national application" under 37 CFR 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filing is defined in 37 CFR 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to S 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to S 1.75; and (2) any drawing required by S 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by S 1.41." 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) within the periods set forth in S 1.494 or S 1.495. 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and an English translation if filed in another language; (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. 37 CFR 1.97(b)(2).

**IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION  
 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE FILING DATE OF THE APPLICATION OR DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL STAGE OF AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION OR BEFORE THE MAILING DATE OF A FIRST OFFICE ACTION ON THE MERITS, WHICHEVER EVENT OCCURS LAST. 37 CFR 1.97(b).

**NOTE:** "NO CERTIFICATION OR FEE IS DUE WHEN THE FILING IS MADE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME PERIOD. IT IS ADVISABLE TO ENSURE THAT NO OFFICE ACTION HAS BEEN MAILED IF THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THREE MONTHS FROM FILING."

**NOTE:** "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 CFR 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 CFR 1.10. An Office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION VIA TELECOPIER**

hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted to the United States Patent Office, addressed to the attention of the Examiner and Group Art Unit identified, above, by telecopier transmission, on 19 January 2004. telecopier Nos: 703-872-9306 and 703-746-4445

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Judith Dunaway

Type or print name of person transmitting paper

Date: 19 January 2004

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 Judith Dunaway  
 (Signature of person transmitting paper)

NOTE: "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

NOTE: "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 CFR 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 CFR 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

WARNING: "A PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTION TO ALLOW APPLICANT TIME TO SUBMIT AN INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WILL BE DENIED AS FAILING TO PRESENT GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASONS, SINCE 37 CFR 1.97 PROVIDES ADEQUATE RECOURSE FOR THE TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PRIOR ART FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXAMINER." NOTICE OF JULY 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

The submission of any document herewith is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Should any fees be necessary in connection with this submission, please charge same to Account No. 06-2360.

Date 19 January 2004

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Signature of Attorney of Record

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<b>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	<b>ATTY DOCKET NO.</b> 1032.16081-CON	<b>SERIAL NO.</b> 10/606,009
	<b>APPLICANT</b> Blumenthal et al.	
<b>Customer No.</b> 26308	<b>FILING DATE</b> 25 June 2003	<b>GROUP</b> 2857

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
Include copy of this of with next communication to applicant.